



# **Christian Faith Fellowship**

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- We are not a perfect church**
- We are not a perfect people**
- We are here because we know we need God's help and He has provided this help through Jesus Christ our Lord!**

## Accountability Questions

- **Did you spend at least 5 minutes a day – at least 5 days last week reading/hearing the Bible?**
- **Did you share a God story with someone this week?**
- **Did you spend time alone with God this week?**
- **What is the Holy Spirit is saying to you?**
- **Are you giving as God has asked you give?**

- In our CFF Action statement it says:



**CFF is called to:**

**Radiate the love of Christ**

**Reach the Lost and the Saved in order to**

**Restore them into fully mature followers of Christ**

- To restore into fully mature followers of Christ - what does it mean to be a follower of Christ?
- Let's look again at the Apostle Paul's (Saul) conversion experience in Acts 9

**Acts 9** 1 Meanwhile, Saul was uttering threats with every breath and was eager to kill the Lord's followers. So he went to the high priest. 2 He requested letters addressed to the synagogues in Damascus, asking for their cooperation in the arrest of any followers of the Way he found there. He wanted to bring them—both men and women—back to Jerusalem in chains.

- “...eager to kill the Lord’s followers...” – “... the arrest of any followers of the Way he found...”
- There is no question these statements reveal that those who followed Jesus – were identifiable.
- The Christ followers had a ‘living evidence’ that they were part of this movement that would allow a stranger coming into town to identify them and arrest them!
- The word here used “follower” in the original Greek is also translated as ‘disciple’...

- When we hear the word disciple – sometimes people get confused and think of the 12 apostles but when we read the great commission (the Action Steps for His followers)

**Matthew 28** 18 Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. 19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

- We – Christ’s followers – are given the task of making other Christ followers.
- Now, here is where the confusion comes in... “*What is a Christ follower?*”
- Anyone who has asked God to forgive them of their sin - accepting Jesus death & resurrection as payment for their sin – and as a result have turned from their sin and are now learning to live the life instructions found in the New Testament.
- This is a Christian, a Disciple, a Christ follower, a Believer, a Follower of the Way, etc.

- (Example): I was raised an outdoorsman... heading to the woods to play as a child, pursuing animals and adventure.
- I read everything I could growing up about being a hunter. I learned the various species, their habits, their life patterns, their habitat, etc.
- I was blessed to be in Colorado just a couple weeks ago on an archery hunt for Elk - the 3 of us who were hunting together, my brother Larry, myself, and our guide Ryan have all been hunters our whole lives.

- All 3 of us are archers, all of us have pursued a wide variety of game, all of us have hunted in timber, mountains, plains, hills, valleys, agriculture, etc.
- BUT - on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of the hunt God clearly spoke a challenge into my heart...
- I wanted to make sure I was not 'dragging down the team' as we hiked the mountains – so, I remained 2 strides behind our guide at all times.
- As I followed him – I was searching the landscape and watching what he was doing because I had never hunted elk before - I wanted to learn and do it right –

- As we hunted I had a nagging thought that kept coming into my mind “*don’t screw it up when the moment of truth presents itself*”
- Now, I was walking behind Ryan (guide) and following his steps – I recalled the words I had spoken to him on day 1: “I want you to know – whatever you say for me to do I will do – I am relying on you and I trust you!”
- As these words flashed thru my mind and I was walking behind him – God spoke to me... “this is what I want from you, Dave”

- Even though I have hunted all my life, have gained a lot of life lesson wisdom from my life of hunting -I had never hunted “these mountains before” - Ryan grew up there - he knew every ravine, every park, every water hole, every cliff, every step of the mountains - he had been there before. For me – even though there were similarities – it was all new to me- I had to rely on Ryan to show the way – to know where we were going – to make the plan and fill me in on my part – SO, God said – “I want you to trust and follow me the same way!”

- For this is what a Christ Follower is – this is what a Christ Follower does: Follows & Trusts
- God continued to challenge me thru the week by the living example of following Ryan - after a few days of following - I started figuring things out - I had some thoughts – “but I think this is a better plan” – “I wouldn’t do this like this” – now, these were not arrogant thoughts – they were real thoughts about where we were & what we were doing – a few times I shared these ideas with Ryan BUT I also surrendered the decision to him as I had to trust what he was doing and that he knew what he was doing.

- This is what God is asking from us here today: Will you trust and follow Him?
- He knows where we are – He knows what we are facing in life – He knows what we need – He knows the lay of the land and what we have to do is trust and follow.
- When Israel was about to go into captivity – they were going thru a very difficult time in their history (all due to their NOT trusting and following God's ways) – God had a message for them right where they were...

**Jeremiah 29** 10 This is what the Lord says: “You will be in Babylon for seventy years. But then I will come and do for you all the good things I have promised, and I will bring you home again. 11 For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. 12 In those days when you pray, I will listen. 13 If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me. 14 I will be found by you,” says the Lord. “I will end your captivity and restore your fortunes. I will gather you out of the nations where I sent you and will bring you home again to your own land.”

- You may be going thru some tough times in life... you may think there is an easier way... you may think you know a better way – STOP trying to figure it out – STOP trying to take control – STOP trying to tell God what to do, where to do it, and when to do it.
- Trust & Follow!

## Action Steps

- Are you a Christ follower? (have you asked God to forgive you of your sin - accepting Jesus death & resurrection as payment for your sin – as a result have you turned from your sin and are now learning to live the life instructions found in the New Testament)
- Are you Trusting & Following through the place you find yourself today?
- Will you surrender your ideas to Him and allow Him to lead regardless of what it feels like to you?